



Spark Gap

Vol. 38, Issue 5, May 2021 *MARC - Serving Central Indiana Communities for thirty-eight years*

The MARC Club meeting is this Saturday (5/15) at 8 am at New Hope Church, 5307 W Fairview Rd, Greenwood. **Please bring an HT programmed for the Simplex frequency 445.875 MHz (no PL tone)** to use when you speak at the meeting, so repeater only listeners can hear.

Live Demonstration: Noel, W9NMM will have 3 radios and 3 laptops set up and demonstrate VARA FM, email over FM radio simplex for the in-person audience at the conclusion of the business portion of the meeting (demonstration audio will not be transmitted over the 2M repeater).

We will meet in the Youth Center (NOT THE ACTIVITY CENTER where we have been meeting). The Youth Center is located on the upper-level, at the top of the stairway to the right inside the lower level doors (West side of the building, by the flagpole),

Alternatively, to avoid stairs, you may enter the upper-level doors (South side of the building) and turn left past the Welcome Center, at the end of the long hallway on the right before the stairwell. Testing will occur in the same lower-level room to the left from the lower-level doors.

..... *Tim, WC9G*

2021 ARRL Field Day is June 26-27

☐ <http://www.arrl.org/field-day>

The Radio Room will be open with 2 radios and 3 antennas. Bring your own radio, operate from the radio room, the garage, or portable from a grassy area. Please plan to participate. More details as we get closer.

Thanks to those who participated in the 2021 INQP. Of the people who responded to my request about participation in the 2021 INQP, the summary is as follows:

UNOFFICIAL!

Participants: 4

Contacts: 296

IN counties: 15

At least 14 DX stations

Club points should be North of 12000



Birthdays for May 2021

*N9QVO – Dave Craig
K9FHX – David Gill
KA9QBF – Joseph Lovrinie
XXXXX - Kenneth Mitchell*

ED WOODS WD9DVA, SK

It is with a heavy heart that we report the April 27th death of long time MARC member Ed Woods, WD9DVA.



Ed was one of the founding members of the Mid-State ARC in 1984. He served in the Missouri National Guard and then served the United States Air Force during the Korean War. After retirement, Ed became active with AFMARS (Air Force Military Auxiliary Radio System) and devoted more than 25 years supporting service men and women connecting them with their families.

On a personal note, Ed was a great mentor to me as a beginning Amateur Radio operator and during my first term as club president. His encouraging advice and calm demeanor helped guide the club in the early years.

At the age of 92, Ed Woods, WD9DVA became a Silent Key.

..... W8ISH, Jack

New Welcome Net

Wednesday's on the W9WIN Linked Repeaters at 8 pm

On May 5th there were over 50 check-ins for the first net. The net is for anyone but geared at newly licensed hams to offer them information about repeater, help to find Elmer's, and current information about amateur radio.

Thanks to Russ Ryle, N9DHF; Ken Bandy, KJ9B; Gordon Brock, KD9RUE; and Ellen Brock, KD9RUD for their Elmering and creating this net. The Indiana Section of the ARRL gives it full support of this net.

Elmer questions can be sent to Elmer@https://www.indyradioclub.org/

The net can be heard on the following repeaters of the W9WIN linked repeater system:

Marion County

Indianapolis – 444.325 + offset, CTCSS 136.5

Monroe County

Bloomington – 443.775 + offset, CTCSS 136.5

Greene County

Vicksburg – 442.425 + offset, CTCSS 136.5 or 118.8

Gibson County

Fort Branch – 145.150 – offset, CTCSS 136.5

Lawrence County

Huron – 442.250 + offset, CTCSS 136.5

Huron – 29.680 – offset, CTCSS 136.5

Washington County

Salem – 444.925 + offset, CTCSS 136.5

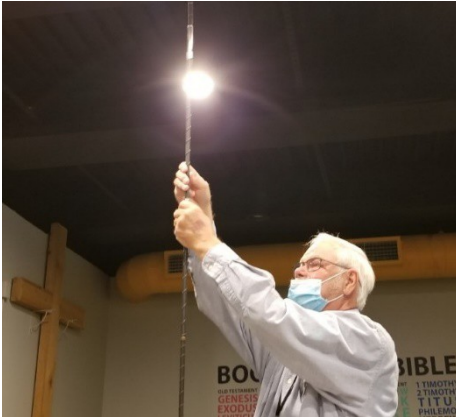
Echolink [1] Node #338340 N9UMJ-R

Note: the N9UMJ-9 Echolink node in Lawrence County is currently non-operational but should be back up and running soon.

..... Tim, WC9G

Back Pack and POTA perfect Antenna

It's not every day you have the chance to share and even inspire your fellow hams. But, following the April meeting at New Hope Church, I took the opportunity to demonstrate the Back pack sized Ventenna HFp to club members.



This multi piece vertical antenna operates on 40 thru 6 meters without traps.

The antenna kit comes complete with six elements, an aluminum 2-piece base, pre-marked radials, six tent pegs with nylon guy lines, a pig tail with SO239 and other necessary hardware.

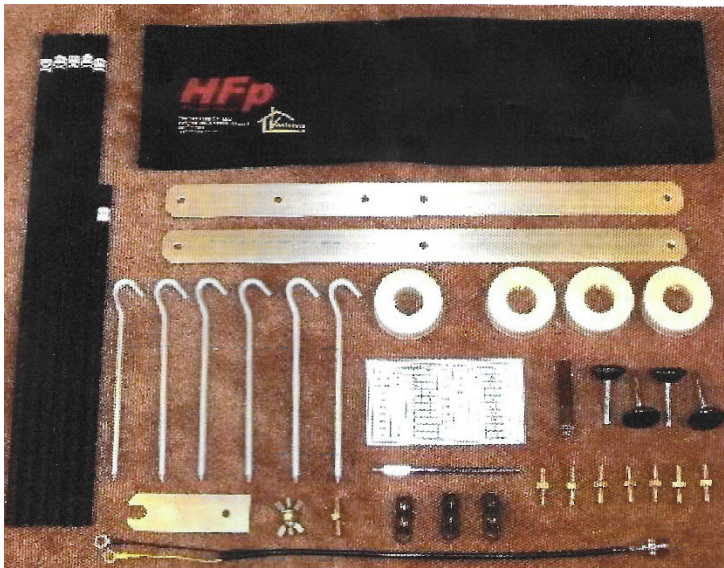
(See package photo)

(Photo by Bob N9SIU)

My Ventenna used for:

National POTA activations

INQP Field Day events Strawberry Festivals



It never fails to result in many contacts and can handle 100-watts.

This light weight antenna comes from The Ventenna Co. in Huston, Idaho. If interested check their web page. They no longer manufacture the kits but are selling the remaining stock. List price is \$249.95.

Check www.ventenna.com for more information. Jack - w8ish

Bill Introduced to Designate April 18, 2022, as National Amateur Radio Operators Day

Arizona Congresswoman [Debbie Lesko](#) has reintroduced a resolution with bipartisan support to designate April 18, 2022, as National Amateur Radio Operators Day. Introduced on April 19, the measure recognizes the important contributions amateur radio operators have made. She introduced a similar bill in the last Congress.

"Throughout history, amateur radio operators have provided invaluable services to our communities," Lesko said in a news release. "I am proud to reintroduce this resolution to honor the important contributions amateur radio operators have made in Arizona and across our nation. Amateur radio has brought people together and has provided critical emergency communications during natural disasters. Amateur radio is a vital part of our nation's communications infrastructure."



As Lesko's resolution notes, the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) designates each April 18 as World Amateur Radio Day, to recognize the founding of the IARU in 1925. She said her resolution would recognize the amateur radio community with a national day in the US. The resolution cites the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES®) for providing "invaluable emergency communications services following recent natural disasters, including, but not limited to, helping coordinate disaster relief efforts following Hurricanes Katrina, Wilma, and Maria and other extreme weather disasters."

ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, commended Lesko for her support of amateur radio. "The voluntary contributions of America's approximately 774,000 amateur radio operators in support of the critical communications infrastructure of the United States are rarely recognized," Roderick said. "Congresswoman Lesko's resolution is an important first step in correcting that oversight."

Lesko was joined by members of both parties as original cosponsors of the resolution. [Read an expanded version.](#)

..... ARRL News April 2021

Club INQP Contest a success!

Only a handful of MARC members geared up for the annual INQP (Indiana QSO Party) May 1st but early returns showed great success for our efforts. The object is to contact as many of the 92 Indiana counties as possible. Snagging a few other states or counties are bonus points.

Club President Tim, WC9G operated portable from his back porch using his Icom 7300 on battery power and a home brewed vertical antenna affixed to his SUV trailer hitch.



Tim WC9G

Operating portable on auxiliary power gives you bonus points for each contact. Tim made 244 contacts which multiplied into 11322 points during the 12-hour marathon.



Second on the total contacts list is Jack, W8ISH. I took it to the field as a mobile operation while activating from a Rush county park. I stopped briefly to activate Shelby county and finished late in the day back in Johnson county. My wife went along for the ride and to enjoy the beautiful weather. My Yaesu FT-991 ran to a Ham Stick dipole on a portable 30-foot mast. The 20 and 40-meter contacts totaled 41 for 820 points for the day. Bonus points were added for mobile operation and for using battery power. My wife got a free lunch on the road between park activations.



Jack W8ISH

With limited weekend time available Bruce -K9ICP still cranked out 24 contacts at the end of the day for a total of 408 points. Bruce worked from home using his Yaesu FT-450 radio into his G5RV (for 40 & 80 meters) and a Hexbeam for 20 meters.

CQ INQP CQ INQP

Jim KB9JMU, operating from his home station made 126 points on 9-contacts which included states, countries and even a few POTA stations along the way.



He used an Icom 7300 to a Hy-Gain AV-14AVQ 4-Band Vertical. Jim has been working the bands daily searching for Parks On The Air and has activated from several parks himself this spring.



Checking in from the Southwest Florida bureau near Estero, Steve-K9DY scored a number of Indiana counties and added a few POTA contacts as well as many DX stations. Unfortunately, his logged contacts don't add to our club score but we appreciate his long-distance support and involvement.

Our club's final score will be reported in the coming months by the Hoosier DX and Contest Club who sponsors the INQP contest.

Author-w8ish Selfies by radio operators

Amateur Radio Credited with Rescue of Back-Country Hiker in Tennessee

A back-country hiker was rescued from Great Smoky Mountains National Park with assistance from amateur radio after she became exhausted on the trail and possibly dehydrated. A member of the hiking group on the park's Little River Trail, Tim Luttrell, KA9EBJ, put out a call on the evening of April 11 via the W4KEV linked VHF repeater in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, requesting assistance in extricating the injured member. No cell phone service was available at the location, and Luttrell's signal was spotty at times, owing to the mountainous terrain.

Responding was David Manuel, W5DJR, who obtained more information and called 911, which routed the call to Great Smoky Mountains National Park Emergency Medical Service (GSMNP EMS). The national park EMS relayed through Manuel a request for the group to continue down the trail as far as possible to shorten the rescue time.



A medic with the Park Service search-and-rescue team subsequently reached Manuel by telephone, who served to relay questions to Luttrell. Manuel contacted members of the hiker's family after Luttrell provided contact numbers. Manuel was asked to relay information for the family to arrange to meet in Cherokee, North Carolina, and be prepared to transport the distressed hiker's vehicle to her home.



Manuel got a call from Luttrell indicating "all clear" shortly after 2 AM.

The injured hiker was hospitalized and required surgery and rehabilitation. ARRL Tennessee Section Manager Dave Thomas, KM4NYI, told ARRL that he'd learned another hiker in the same group was close to hypothermia by the time they were rescued.

Thomas will recognize each of the radio amateurs involved in the rescue with a Certificate of Merit during the ARRL Tennessee State Convention in Knoxville on June 19. [Read an expanded version.](#)

.... ARRL News April 2021

Greater Indianapolis Hamfest



Indiana Section ARRL Convention

JULY 9&10, 2021

FRIDAY 2-7 p.m.

SATURDAY 6a.m. - 2p.m.

\$8 AT GATE
GOOD BOTH DAYS

INDOOR SALES OPEN AT 7 A.M. SATURDAY

FEATURING

*Meet & Greet your ARRL Officials
at the Friday 5 to 7 p.m. Social
Sat. Presentations by League Staff*

*Air Conditioned Indoor Sales
and
Indiana's **LARGEST** Outdoor
Electronic Flea Market*

MAIN PRIZE DRAWING ON SATURDAY @ 2P.M.

Visit our website at
WWW.INDYHAMFEST.COM

From the Treasurer..... Club Dues

- 1) Pay dues through PayPal. Go to the MARC website for the link.
- 2) Sign up for Amazon Smile . Go to the website for directions. Please pass along to friends and family. Amazon sends us a check.
- 3) Sign up for Kroger. Go to the website for directions. Please pass along to friends and family. Kroger sends us a check.

Thanks Chris, KC9VGQ


2021 Indiana ARRL Hamfest Schedule

July 10
Auburn Hamfest
Auburn Cord Duesenberg Museum - 1600 S. Wayne Street – Auburn

 <http://W9OU.ORG>

August 7
Elkhart Hamfest Northern Indiana Event Center - 21565 Executive Parkway
- Elkhart
<http://elkharteamfest>

August 14
Hendricks County Tailgate Fest
Avon United Methodist Church - 6850 E. Highway 36 Avon, IN 46123

November 13 & 14
Fort Wayne Hamfest & Computer Expo
2021 - ARRL - Central Division Convention
Allen County War Memorial Coliseum – 4000 Parnell Ave – Fort Wayne
 <http://www.fortwaynehamfest.com>

Canceled 2021 Hamfests

February 6 Hendrick County Hamfest

February 26, 2021 - LaPorte Cabin Fever Hamfest

April 3, 2021 - Columbus Hamfest

May – Dayton, Ohio Hamvention

ARRL Indiana Section Manager: Jimmy L Merry Jr, KC9RPX kc9rpx@arrl.org





MID-STATE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club meets the **THIRD SATURDAY** of each month at the Johnson County REMC 750 International Drive Franklin, IN 46131.

See our website, www.midstatehams.org, for maps on how to get to our meeting.

Everyone is welcome; you do not have to be a *HAM* to attend our meetings or a member of the club.

W9MID Repeater:

146.835/
146.235 MHz
(151.4 Hz PL Tone)

Club Officers:

President: Tim Aldridge - WC9G
Vice President: Jacki Frederick – KI6QOG
Secretary: Chris Read – W9OQ
Treasurer: Chris Mazzarella – KC9VGQ
Repeater Trustee - Chris Frederick – KQ9Y

W9MID Repeater:

443.525/
448.525 MHz
(151.4 Hz PL Tone)

Weekly Net: Sunday evening 7:00 PM ARES/RACES members and ALL RADIO AMATEURS
146.835/146.235 MHz (151.4 Hz PL Tone)

The Official Newsletter of the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club

P.O. Box 836
Franklin, Indiana
46131

Spark Gap Editor: Robert LaGrange N9SIU

Please send your articles to my email: n9siu@yahoo.com no later than the 2nd week of the month.



Special thanks to New Hope Church for the use of their Activity room for meetings and testing.